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SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS SUPPORTS U.S. POSITIONS AT UPCOMING  
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION CONGRESS

REF: STATE 66814

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED; PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

**¶1.** (SBU) SUMMARY: The Netherlands broadly supports U.S. positions for the upcoming Universal Postal Union (UPU) quadrennial Congress in Geneva. The two-person Dutch delegation does not expect this Congress to be especially controversial as there are few reform issues on the agenda. They favor the U.S. candidacies and also seek U.S. support for the Dutch candidacy to the Postal Operations Council (POC). END SUMMARY.

**¶2.** (SBU) On July 8, Econoff delivered reftel demarche regarding the UPU Congress to Bert Aerts and Carawan Groenewelt, Directorate-General for Energy and Telecom, Ministry of Economic Affairs. (Note: Aerts and Groenewelt will represent the GONL at the Congress in Geneva. End note.) The Dutch welcome and fully support the election of the U.S. to the Council of Administration (CA) and POC. The GONL continues to view the United States as a valuable player in the UPU. Aerts requested U.S. support for the Dutch candidacy to the POC. Unlike in the past, these elections will be competitive because there are now more candidates than available seats. Aerts noted the poor coordination between EU member states on their UPU candidacies. He said the Dutch are working hard to secure official support for their POC candidacy and are confident of success.

**¶3.** (SBU) Aerts said the Dutch share U.S. concerns regarding proposed changes to the UPU mission statement that would expand the organization's mission to include trade and economic development. The GONL was "surprised" by the proposal's insertion and would prefer to see it "buried" rather than postponed. However, they understand that political sensitivities may require postponement and therefore would support this compromise. Aerts expects most EU member states to oppose the CA proposal as well.

**¶4.** (SBU) The GONL continues to officially support zero nominal growth in the UPU budget from 2009 to 2012 and U.S. proposals to confirm the status of the UPU's extrabudgetary groups. The Dutch view these budgetary objectives as non-controversial.

Gallagher